



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Ely Shoshone Tribe, NV*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Ely Shoshone Tribe for a Brownfields Pilot. The Tribe was established in 1936. Ely Shoshone Tribal lands are located in White Pine County in the eastern part of Nevada. The economy of White Pine and other nearby counties has traditionally been based on the mining industry. The Tribe is focusing its brownfields redevelopment efforts on two sites, the old Ely landfill and a section of Treaty Territorial land that contains abandoned mining sites. The unregulated landfill, opened in the 1900s and abandoned in the 1950s, is on a natural underground waterway. It is surrounded by a residential community and covers approximately twenty acres, five of which are on Tribal land. The contaminants in and around the landfill hinder redevelopment efforts and threaten the drinking water of the surrounding communities. The second targeted site is the result of years of heavy industrial use. The U.S. Government authorized U.S. mining companies to conduct surface mining operations on the Indian Treaty Territorial lands. The mining companies disposed of leaching chemicals and solvents in both the landfill and surrounding mining sites.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Ely Shoshone Tribe,  
Nevada

Date of Announcement:  
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Ely Shoshone Tribe targets an abandoned landfill and industrial mining sites located on Tribal lands with redevelopment plans for a recycling center and a milling center.

#### Contacts:

Ely Shoshone Tribe  
(775) 289-4133

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 9  
(415) 744-2237

Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The Ely Shoshone Tribe's initial plan for the sites calls for transforming the landfill into a region-wide recycling center and reusing the abandoned mining sites as a milling center. The cleanup and redevelopment of these two properties will serve to bolster the area economy, create jobs in the surrounding community, and restore the area's environmental health. The Pilot plans to help facilitate these larger objectives by conducting site assessments, developing site characterizations, and modeling waste management programs for contaminated sites. The Pilot's first step is creating a region-wide waste management plan that not only cleans up environmental contamination, but also provides the area with an environmentally sound industry for a stable economic base.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting site assessments and site characterizations of the targeted areas;
- Creating a cleanup and redevelopment plan for the targeted areas; and
- Conducting community outreach with regard to cleanup and reuse of the targeted area.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.